

PATENT**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:**

[The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:]

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system for a user, comprising:

an interface unit that has a directional speaker ~~attachable to clothing worn by the user~~ and a microphone;

wherein

the microphone receives input audio signals, which are transformed into ultrasonic signals;

the speaker transmits the ultrasonic signals;

at least a portion of the ultrasonic signals is transformed into output audio signals ~~by interaction with~~ in air;

~~the speaker directs the output audio signals towards at least one ear of the user from the worn position of the speaker;~~ and

a portion of the input audio signals is amplified more than another portion to enhance the hearing of the user.

2. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the amplification is frequency dependent.

3. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 2 ~~wherein the amplification focuses on higher audio frequencies~~ at least a portion of the audio frequencies that is higher in frequency than another portion of the audio frequencies receives greater amplification.

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4. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 2 wherein certain frequencies of the input audio signals are not amplified.
5. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 2 wherein the amplification depends on at least one characteristic of the hearing of the user.
6. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 5 wherein the at least one characteristic of the hearing of the user is determined through ~~calibration~~ calibrating the hearing of the user.
7. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the system can be de-activated by the user.
8. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein when the system is not activated, the system can be activated depending on at least one word spoken ~~said~~ by the user.
9. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein depending on the power level of the input audio signals, the system can be in a standby mode.
10. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein depending on the average power level of the input audio signals, the system can be in a standby mode.

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11. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the microphone is a directional microphone.
12. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the amplification ~~reduces~~ is reduced or limited if the average power level of the input audio signals is higher than a preset threshold.
13. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the system further includes a rechargeable battery.
14. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the system also can function as a phone.
15. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1, wherein the system includes more than one directional speaker, and wherein the phases of the ultrasonic signals driving at least two of the speakers differ by a preset value. ~~the speaker is a phase array.~~
16. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 1 wherein the system can also access audio signals from another instrument through a wire or a wireless connection, ~~or wirelessly through a wireless local area network.~~
17. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16 wherein the another instrument is a portable instrument.

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18. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16 wherein the another instrument is an entertainment unit.

19. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16 wherein the another instrument is a phone.

20. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16 wherein the another instrument is related to a microphone at an event.

21. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 16 wherein the another instrument is related to a speaker at an event.

22. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system for a user, comprising:

a directional speaker ~~attachable to clothing worn by the user;~~
a microphone; and

a computing unit operatively coupled to the directional speaker and the microphone,

wherein the microphone receives input audio signals, and the computing unit ~~transforms~~ modifies the input audio signals at least ~~into modified audio signals~~ by modifying certain frequencies differently than other frequencies to enhance the ability of the user to hear the input audio signals, and provides the modified ~~audio~~-signals to the directional speaker,

wherein the directional speaker outputs ultrasonic signals waves based on the modified ~~audio~~-signals.

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23. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the ultrasonic signals waves output by the directional speaker are transformed into output audio signals ~~by interaction with~~ in air.
24. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22, wherein the speaker is attachable to the clothing worn by the user, and
wherein the directional speaker can direct ~~directs~~ the ultrasonic signals waves towards at least one ear of the user from the worn position of the directional speaker.
25. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22, wherein the computing unit is integral with the directional speaker.
26. (Original) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22, wherein the computing unit is separate from the directional speaker but operatively couples with the directional speaker over a wireless link.
27. (Currently Amended) A hearing enhancement system as recited in claim 22, wherein the computing unit has a reduced power mode and a normal power mode, and wherein the computing unit can be automatically switched between the power modes based on at least one characteristic ~~characteristics~~ of the input audio signals, thereby reducing power consumption by the computing unit.